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SPY

BY LARS ERIK-NELSON

MOSCOW, JULY 17 (REUTERS)--PRAVDA TODAY GAVE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IT CALLED A MAJOR AMERICAN SPY RING ON CYPRUS--INCLUDING THE SECRET TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR REPORTING INFORMATION.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER SAID THE UNITED STATES CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (C.I.A.) HAD FLOODED THE ISLAND WITH SPIES AND AGENTS PROVOCATEURS, BOTH AMERICANS AND LOCAL INHABITANTS, IN AN EFFORT TO TRANSFORM CYPRUS INTO A NATO BASE.

PRAVDA WRITER B. SHCHETININ CLAIMED THE C.I.A. OPERATED THREE RADIO STATIONS, AT CARAVAGE, EROLAYOS AND MIA MILIA, TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION, EASTERN EUROPE, THE ARAB MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS ITSELF.

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ALLEGED SPY RING, HE SAID, WAS IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, THE STAFF OF WHICH HAD RECENTLY BEEN DOUBLED. THE TWO SPY MASTERS, HE CONTINUED, WERE AN UNIDENTIFIED SECOND SECRETARY WHO CONTROLLED LOCAL AGENTS, AND THE PRESS ATTACHE, WHO MAINTAINED LIAISON WITH "REACTIONARY" GREEK OFFICERS LIVING ON THE ISLAND.

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FIRST AND MOSCOW SPY X X X ISLAND.

THE SECOND SECRETARY COULD OFTEN BE SEEN IN RESTAURANTS IN NICOSIA, MEETING WITH HIS AGENTS AND RECEIVING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT, THE AUTHOR SAID.

IN ADDITION, CODED INFORMATION WAS PASSED TO THE EMBASSY THROUGH THE TELEPHONE NUMBER 51-51, SHCHETININ CONTINUED.

HE ALSO ACCUSED THE C.I.A. OF SETTING OFF BOMBS AND THROWING HAND GRENADES IN POPULATED PLACES "IN ORDER TO UNDERMINE THE UNITY OF THE CYPRIOTS IN THEIR ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE"--AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO PAST CONFLICTS BETWEEN TRUKS AND GREEKS LIVING ON THE ISLAND.

THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE PLOT, HE CHARGED, WAS TO DEPRIVE CYPRUS OF ITS INDEPENDENCE, ALIGN IT WITH GREECE AND TRANSFORM IT INTO A NUCLEAR-MISSILE BASE.

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